GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:299
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2002
LACK OF PADDY PROCUREMENT
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY;RAJO SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Governments of Orissa and Bihar have complained about lack of procurementof rice/paddy by FCI during the last Kharif and Rabi season;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(c) whether the Union Government have initiated remedial steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons thereto alongwith the quantity of paddy/rice procured in both the States till date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI PRADHAN)

(a),(b),(c)&(d): Government of Bihar vide letters dated 27.11.2000 and 9.12.2000 requested for increase in the number of purchase centers for procurement of paddy, for relaxation in the specifications, as the paddy crop has been affected by excessive rains and floods during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01. The Union Government increased the number of purchase centers from 30 to 40, and relaxed the paddy specifications in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains up to a maximum limit of 6% as against 3% provided in the uniform specifications. The out turn ratio for custom milling of paddy of relaxed standard was reduced to 64% for raw and 65% for par boiled rice as against 67% for raw and 68% for parboiled rice.

Government of Orissa through its letters dated 25.4.2001 and 9.5.2001 pointed out that there were cases of distress sale of paddy and the FCI was pleading their inability to procure further stocks on the ground of shortage of storage space.The State Government also requested to depute Managing Director, FCI to make on the spot assessment of the preparedness and arrangements of FCI to handle Rabi procurement.

As a special drive, FCI had hired 80,000 tonnes storage capacity from SWC and private parties in Orissa exclusively for the purpose of local procurement, and the problem of shortage of storage space was sorted out. Chairman, FCI visited Bhubaneshwar from 12th to 14th June, 2001 and discussed the situation of paddy procurement with the Chief Minister, Minister of Foodand Civil Supplies, Chief Secretary and other officers of the State Government.As on 26.2.2002, FCI procured a quantity of 4.66 lakh tonnes of rice in Orissa as against 3.81 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year. In Bihar, as on 26.2.2002, a quantity of 8994 tones of paddy has been procured as against 6352 tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year.